

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are pending in this application. Claims 5 and 10 are allowed. Claims 1-4, 6-9 and 11 are rejected. Claims 1, 6 and 11 are amended hereby.

Applicant has amended the specification and Fig. 2 to identify the terminals in electrical connector 24 with reference character 29. As these terminals are described in the specification and shown in the drawings as filed, no new matter has been added.

Responsive to the rejection of claims 1-4, 6-9 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,593,505 (Russell), Applicant has amended claims 1, 6 and 11, and submits that claims 1-4, 6-9 and 11 are in condition for allowance.

Russell '505 discloses frame members 14 secured to the underside of wall panel 10 where the frame members can be adjacent an outlet 22 (column 2, lines 41-45). Wing portions 35 of upper mounting clips 34 serve to retain in place base cover members 46 which are releasably retained thereon by upper and lower inwardly directed top and bottom flange members 48 (column 3, lines 9-12). A pair of spaced compartments are provided along the underside of the power distribution raceway for receiving communication cables and the like in the form of a flexible U-shaped boot 50 (column 3, lines 14-17). Base covers 46 may be provided with aperture 60 therethrough adjacent each of frame members 14 in order to provide electrical convenience outlets 22 in connection with a terminal block mounted in the electrical component receiving aperture 18 (column 3, lines 36-40). An upper 38 and lower 40 electrical component retaining brackets are integral with the frame member and serve to mount an electrical component or terminal block within the electrical component mounting aperture 18 (column 3, line 65 through column 4, line 1).

In contrast, claim 1 as amended recites in part:

an electrical connector including a plurality of terminals; at least one channel extending from and electrically connected with said electrical connector, said at least one channel including a plurality of electrical conductors at least partially therein, said plurality of electrical conductors connected with said plurality of terminals; ... at least one receptacle mounting bracket having a cutout at least partially surrounding and supporting said electrical receptacle ... said electrical receptacle protruding through both at least one said aperture and at least one said receptacle mounting bracket.

(Emphasis added.) Applicant submits that such an invention is neither taught, disclosed nor suggested by Russell '505 or any of the other cited references, alone or in combination, and has distinct advantages thereover.

Russell '505 discloses base covers which may be provided with apertures therethrough adjacent each of the frame members in order to provide access to electrical outlets. Russell '505 fails to disclose or suggest an electrical connector including a plurality of terminals connected to a plurality of conductors in a channel, and a receptacle mounting bracket having a cutout at least partially surrounding and supporting the electrical receptacle, where the electrical receptacle protrudes through both the aperture in the base cover and the receptacle mounting bracket. The receptacle mounting bracket 34 of the present invention allows a slide mounted receptacle to be used in an application that has a screw mount receptacle configuration as an element of securing to the harness. Therefore, field installation people and/or customers can convert the mounting type without buying new receptacles.

Other advantages of the present invention are that receptacle mounting bracket provides positive support for the electrical receptacle and holds the electrical receptacle firmly relative to the electrical distribution harness to maintain good connection with the electrical distribution harness and to avoid damage to the electrical receptacle and/or the electrical distribution harness.

For all of the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that claim 1, and claims 2-4 depending therefrom, are now in condition for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested.

Similarly, claim 6 as amended recites in part:

an electrical connector including a plurality of terminals; at least one channel extending from and electrically connected with said electrical connector, said at least one channel including a plurality of electrical conductors at least partially therein, said plurality of electrical conductors connected with said plurality of terminals; ...at least one receptacle mounting bracket having a cutout at least partially surrounding and supporting said electrical receptacle ... said electrical receptacle configured for protruding through both at least one said aperture and at least one said receptacle mounting bracket.

(Emphasis added). For all of the reasons given above with regard to Claim 1, Applicant submits that claim 6, and claims 7-9 depending therefrom, are now in condition for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested.

Similarly, claim 11 as amended recites in part: “

providing an electrical distribution harness including at least one channel having a plurality of electrical conductors at least partially therein and an electrical connector including a plurality of terminals, said plurality of electrical conductors connected with said plurality of terminals; ... placing a receptacle mounting bracket over the electrical receptacle such that a cutout at least partially surrounds and supports the electrical receptacle; attaching said receptacle mounting bracket to the electrical distribution harness; and inserting the electrical receptacle through at least one said aperture.

(Emphasis added). For all of the reasons given above with regard to Claim 1, Applicant submits that claim 11 is now in condition for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested.

At page 3 of the Office Action claims 5 and 10 are indicated allowed for which courtesy the Examiner is thanked. For all of the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that claims 5 and 10 are in condition for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested.

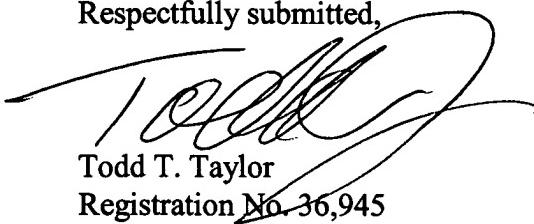
For the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that no combination of the cited references teaches, discloses or suggests the subject matter of the amended claims. The pending claims are therefore in condition for allowance, and Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of all rejections and allowance of the claims.

In the event Applicant has overlooked the need for an extension of time, an additional extension of time, payment of fee, or additional payment of fee, Applicant hereby conditionally petitions therefor and authorizes that any charges be made to Deposit Account No. 20-0095,

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Should any question concerning any of the foregoing arise, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (260) 897-3400.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

TTT7/

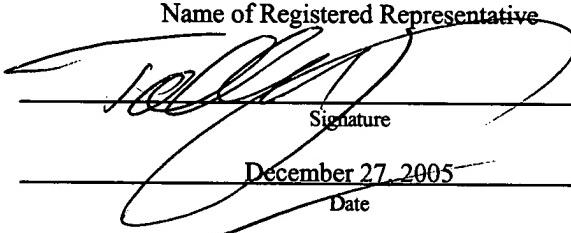
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: MS Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on: December 27, 2005.

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Name of Registered Representative



Todd T. Taylor

Signature

December 27, 2005

Date

AMENDMENT(S) TO THE DRAWINGS

Please amend Fig. 2 as indicated in red on the attached annotated marked-up drawing(s).

A replacement sheet presenting replacement figures which incorporate the desired changes is also enclosed.



Annotated Marked-up Drawing

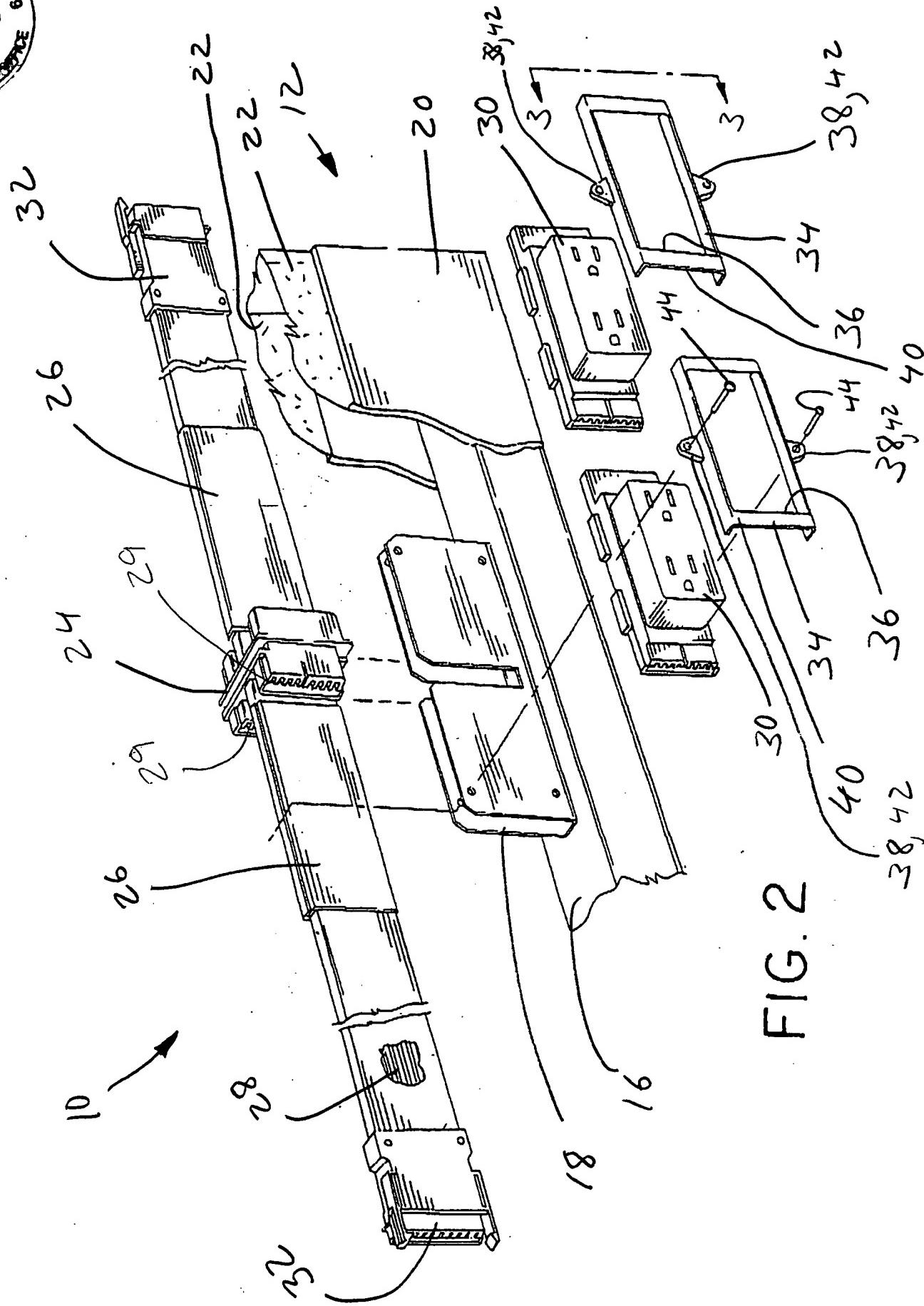


FIG. 2